

LIVING THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY:

HOMELESS EMERGENCY SHELTER PILOT PROGRAM

The Homeless Program in the Greater Hazleton Area, sponsored by Catholic Social Services, began on Monday, February 8, 2016. Holy Rosary Church offered their facilities for the first week and Most Precious Blood offered their facilities for the second week. It came at a time when the temperatures became increasingly cold. I am very pleased to report that Saint John Bosco Parish contributed \$2,000.00 toward defraying the cost of this program. Obviously, due to distance and the use of our gym for prior commitments, we are unable to providing lodging for the week. This amount was contributed by our parishioners in the Super Bowl Sunday special collection that was taken up at the doors of our church following every weekend Mass. Your generosity was outstanding and shows that you are striving, especially during this Year of Mercy and the Lenten Season, to reach out to the needy of our area. One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is: SHELTER THE HOMELESS.

If you know anyone interested in applying for shelter, tell them they may sign it at the weekly site or at CSS, 214 Walnut St, Hazleton. For more information, they may also contact Maryjo Penkala at 570-455-1521.

VOLUNTEERS are needed. Contact CSS if you are available and interested in volunteering for Overnight Security, Meal Preparation, Transportation, Housekeeping, Phone Calls, Sign In/Sign Out, Promotion or in recruiting volunteers. Also, let us know if you are bilingual or if you have any special skills or qualifications that may be useful and when you might be available.

MONTHLY MEAL FOR THE NEEDY:

St. John Bosco also provides and serves a free hot nutritious meal to the needy at the Salvation Army on Broad Street in Hazleton at 11 am on the third Wednesday of each month. We are grateful to our volunteers and those who donate the food, prepare the meal or give financial contributions. Again, another Corporal Work of Mercy is: TO FEED THE HUNGRY AND TO GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY. Volunteers are always welcome to serve the meal, prepare the meal or to donate towards the meal. Contact Arlene Stagg or the parish office if you would like to help. Other parishes and organizations volunteer for other days throughout the month.

GREATER HAZLETON HEALTH CLINIC:

A free health clinic for individuals without medical insurance or medical assistance is held on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday each month beginning at 5 PM at Catholic Social Services Family Center, 106 S. Church Street in Hazleton. Patient Registration is held on the day of the clinic from 5-6 pm on a first-come, first-served basis. No registrations are accepted after 6 pm. The clinic remains open until all registered patients are seen.

The Clinic treats adults (18 years and older) with medical conditions that are typically seen on an urgent basis in a family practice setting, for example: colds or flu, minor infections, aches, pains, sprains and rashes. Children are not being seen at this time nor are employment physicals. This free health clinic is sponsored by the Greater Hazleton Health Clinic, a non-profit, volunteer based organization created to meet an identified need in the Greater Hazleton area. This clinic helps us to fulfill the Corporal Work of Mercy: TO CARE FOR THE SICK.

MEALS ON WHEELS OF GREATER HAZLETON:

Meals on Wheels of Greater Hazleton is a local private non-profit agency that provides fresh food home delivery of nutritionally balanced meals Monday through Friday throughout the Greater Hazleton area including the valley areas of Conyngham/Drums/Sugarloaf. There are no age or income requirements, and clients pay a nominal fee for their participation. Clients choose to receive meals short-term following a hospital stay or recovery, or long-term to maintain daily nutritional needs. Meals follow one's personal physician guidelines with client preferences and are delivered by compassionate volunteers who also provide a friendly daily visit. Together we can maintain one's dignity and independence, eat well, and ensure a better quality of life.

For more information on the meal program, how to donate in honor or memory of someone, or to become a volunteer driver, please call Meals on Wheels at (570) 501-1700. Corporal Work of Mercy: FEED THE HUNGRY and CARE FOR THE SICK.